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Message Text

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45 40
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 L-02 PM-03 OPR-02 A-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /052 W
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O 141810Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2717

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6367

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, TH, CB
SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF AMCITS FROM PHNOM PENH

SUMMARY:

DICK BLYSTONE, ASSOCIATED PRESS BANGKOK BUREAU CHIEF, CALLED CHARGE' TO PASS REQUEST FROM GROUP OF APPX 30 FOREIGNERS STRANDED IN PHNOM PENH, INCLUDING POSSIBLY 14 NEWSMEN. THAT USG ORGANIZE A SECOND "EAGLE PULL" STYLE HELO LIFT TO EVACUATE THEM FROM CAMBODIA. EMBASSY SEEKS WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO BLYSTONE WHO AWAITS EMBASSY REPLY IN HIS OFFICE. END SUMMARY

1. DICK BLYSTONE, A.P. BANGKOK BUREAU CHIEF, RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM A DOUG SAPPER, A U.S. NATIONAL, FREE LANCE PILOT STILL IN PHNOM PENH. MESSAGE CLAIMED SAPPER AND APPX 30 OTHER AMERICANS AND THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS INCLUDING POSSIBLY 14 NEWSMEN, WHO HAD ELECTED TO REMAIN IN PHNOM PENH. AFTER EAGLE PULL OPERATION, REQUESTED BYSTONE'S HELP IN CONTACTING U.S.A. TO ARRANGE SECOND EAGLE PULL STYLE HELO LIFT TO EVACUATE THEM FROM PHNOM PENH. MESSAGE FROM THOSE STRANDED IN PHNOM PENH CLAIMED SITUATION WAS DESPERATE AND NEXT 36 HOURS WAS CRUCIAL.

2. DETAILS SUCH AS EXACT COMPOSITION OF GROUP SEEKING EVACUATION, LACKING IN SHORT MESSAGE THAT BLYSTONE RECEIVED. BLYSTONE DOES RECALL THAT PRESS CORPS REMAINING IN PHNOM PENH INCLUDED 5 AMERICANS
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4 SWEEDES, 1 EACH GERMAN, ITALIAN AND BRITISH NATIONSLS. IS IS

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NOT CLEAR FROM SAPPER'S MESSAGE WHETHER ALL OF THESE NEWSMEN ARE ASSOCIATED WITH HIS REQUEST FOR EVACUATION. BLYSTONE SURMISES REMAINING EVACUATION REQUESTEES 15 TO 25 TCN'S MOSTLY LAOS AND PHILIPPINES. IT IS UNCLEAR BUT LIKELY THAT ALL OF ABOVE KNEW OF REAL EAGLE PULL OPERATION, ELECTED TO STAY IN PHNOM PENH BUT NOW WANT TO LEAVE.

3. THOUGH CHANCES REMOTE WASHINGTON COMPLY WITH REQUEST FOR EVACUATION AP BUREAU CHIEF BLYSTONE'S INVOLVEMENT CONVINCED CHARGE' TO REFER MATTER TO D.C.

4. BLYSTONE JUST CALLED DUTY OFFICER, HE SAID HE JUST FINISHED TALKING TO AP SAIGON WHO CLAIMED NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU IN SAIGON HAD RECEIVED A TELEX FROM SIDNEY SHANBERG STILL IN PHNOM PENH WITH MESSAGE: " I HAVE SEEN THE KHMER ROUGE AND THEY ARE NOT KILLING ANYONE." BLYSTONE'S ONLY CAVEAT ON ABOVE MESSAGE WAS THAT IT WAS RECEIVED SEVERAL HOURS AGO.
MASTERS

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